



Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in California

CDFA and USDA personnel continue investigating herds that received cattle from or sold cattle to a Fresno County dairy herd detected with bovine TB (*Mycobacterium bovis*) in January 2008. The herd was detected when a lymph node with tuberculosis lesions was collected from a cow during routine slaughter surveillance in December 2007.

At least 63 California dairies, 3 out-of-state dairies, 18 dealers, 1 calf raiser, 1 out-of-state heifer raiser, and 11 slaughter traces received cattle from the affected herd since 2003. Approximately 36 dairies have been identified as sources of cattle entering the affected herd. Testing herds that received cattle and herds that contributed cattle to the affected herd is ongoing.

TB Testing & Cattle Culled To Date		
	# Herds	# Cattle
Affected Herds	1	~5,000
Tested Herds	71	77,723
Depopulated Cattle	---	678

California can maintain its Free status if the affected herd is depopulated, no additional affected herds are detected within the next 48 months, and the tracing of cows and testing of herds linked to the affected herd is completed within approximately seven months. California regained its TB Free Status on April 15, 2005, two years after losing it due to the detection of three bovine TB-affected central valley dairy herds.

California Surveillance*

Surveillance relies on private veterinarian testing and on slaughter surveillance. Last year, nearly 773,000 adult cattle slaughtered in California were inspected for TB; 2,000 suspicious samples were submitted for evaluation and all but three were negative for TB. Two of the three infected cattle were Mexican-origin feedlot steers. The third positive sample was from a cow sold by an infected New Mexico dairy. Two additional feedlot steers (killed in other states) traced from California to Mexico in 2007.

In 2007, private veterinarians did over 84,000 tuberculin caudal fold skin tests in California, and had 348 responders (0.41% response rate).

To prevent the spread of bovine TB, cattle producers must prevent contact between their breeding cattle and Mexican-origin cattle. In addition, dairy cattle imported from other states into California require a negative TB test before movement.

National TB Report*

On April 2, 2008, the U.S. Department of Agriculture made \$16.8 million in emergency funds available to continue bovine TB eradication efforts in California, Michigan and Minnesota. This money will be used to depopulate known affected herds, to prevent disease spread and to provide indemnity to producers. The funding also will be used for enhanced surveillance to identify affected herds and to determine the source of infection. Between 2000 and 2008, 71 newly affected herds were detected in the U.S.; 28 were detected between 2005 and now.

Arizona: One affected herd detected in 2005 was depopulated.

Colorado: One affected herd was detected in 2007 after an infected rodeo bull was found during routine slaughter surveillance in Texas. This herd was depopulated.

Michigan: Since 1998, 44 cattle herds and 2 cervid herds have been detected. Since 1995, 593 infected whitetail deer have been detected from over 161,897 examined. Infection has also been found in elk, coyotes, raccoons, black bears, bobcats, red foxes, and opossums. Michigan has three TB zones: Free, Modified Accredited Advanced (MAA) and Modified Accredited (MA).

Minnesota: Eleven affected beef herds have been detected: 3 in 2005, 2 in 2006, 2 in 2007, and 4 in 2008. Minnesota's status was downgraded to MA when four affected herds were found in a 12-month period. All affected herds have been depopulated. Seventeen cases of bovine TB have been confirmed in whitetail deer. Minnesota is planning to request split-state status.

New Mexico: One large affected dairy (two herds) was detected and depopulated in 2007. One affected dairy herd detected in 2003 remains under a test-and-removal plan, another was depopulated. New Mexico has split-state status (Free and MAA).

Oklahoma: One beef herd detected by slaughter surveillance was depopulated in 2007.

Texas: The last known infected herd was depopulated in September 2004 and Texas was declared TB free in September 2006.

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* All references to years refer to the Federal TB Fiscal Year: October 1 – September 30. We are now in FY08, which goes from 10/1/07 to 9/30/08.
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